

9/25/20

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Judith Pella and I live at Zambarano Hospital in Pascoag. I came from Eleanor Slater Hospital in Cranston and have a long story to tell. Before coming to the hospital, I was active. I enjoyed shopping, going to church and was busy with my ten-year-old daughter. Unfortunately, I had wounds on my legs that were down to the bone. My doctor at that time, described them as "the second worst case in the state".

When I could no longer take care of myself at home, my diabetes put me into a coma for three weeks. My life changed from that day forward. I woke up in RI Hospital with a tube in my throat to breathe and a tube in my stomach to eat. I could not believe it. Unable to go home and too sick to go anywhere else, Eleanor Slater became my home for the next 11 years and still is today.

There was a time that I was ready to be discharged, but I had to have surgery on my knee, a rod put in my leg and then needed a special shoe to make my height even on both sides. I have had some major setbacks. I became incontinent and was too scared or able to walk. Through it all, the care here never stopped. My doctor and nurses and everyone never gave up on me. They helped me medically and then I was better off mentally.

Now, I can take a few steps to transfer from my bed to the chair and need to use a walker. My rehab has had to stop because of how fragile the bone in my leg is, but they gave me another way to keep going. The staff did not want me to have to stay in bed, get depressed or have other medical issues. They helped me get a custom power wheelchair so I could do the things I enjoy again.

I do not want to go anywhere else from here because I don't think I would survive anywhere else. I need the support of my doctor, my dietician and my nurses to keep my medical conditions under control. I also know that I need the ongoing help of the psychology staff weekly and the weekly woman's support group to keep me stable and healthy. This is more important than anything, since I do not have family to keep me going or look out for my best interest.

At 56 years old, I still have a lot more living left to do. I need to be at the one and only place that will allow me to do that safely and happily, which is at Eleanor Slater Hospital. Thank you!

Judith Pella

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